

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this preliminary amendment, Claims 1-17 have been amended (total number of claims 17). Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

The claims are amended herein for the purpose of grammatical clarity.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title is changed as follows:

METHOD [OF] AND SYSTEM FOR BILLING SUBSCRIBERS IN A
TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (*Amended*) A method of billing subscribers in a telecommunication network, wherein each subscriber has billing accounts that are charged when services of the telecommunication network are used, [**characterized** by] the method comprising:

forming at least one subscriber billing group [(G1, G2) comprising] having at least two [or more] subscribers [(MS1...MS6),]

assigning each subscriber [having] a billing account [of his or her own] in a billing database; [and]

determining at least one subscriber in [the] each billing group [(G1, G2)] as a master subscriber [(MS1)], [who has a right] the master subscriber having access rights to [access said] the billing database; and

[carry] carrying out predetermined procedures in and between the accounts of the subscriber billing group.

2. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 1, [**characterized** in that] wherein the master subscriber [(MS1)] has [the right] access rights to [access said] the billing database through [said] the telecommunication network.

3. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 1, [**characterized** in that] wherein the master subscriber [(MS1)] carries out balance transfers between the billing accounts within [said] the group [(G1, G2)].

4. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 3], [**characterized** in that said] wherein each the billing account has a limited balance, and the master subscriber [(MS1)] changes the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

5. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 4, [**characterized** in that said] wherein each billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

6. (*Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 5, [**characterized** in that] wherein the credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

7. (*Amended*) A system for billing a plurality of telecommunication network subscribers ~~wherein each subscriber has billing accounts in a billing database [(10)]~~ that are charged when services of a telecommunication network are used, [**characterized** in that] the system comprising:

a subscriber database having at least one subscriber billing group [(G1, G2) comprising] including at least two [or more] subscribers [(MS1...MS6) is formed in a subscriber database (2-2)], each subscriber having a billing account [of his or her

own] in the billing database [(10)], and at least one subscriber in [the] each billing group is a master subscriber [(MS1)],

[who has a right] wherein the master subscriber has access rights to [access said] the billing database [(10)] and [carry] carries out predetermined procedures in and between the accounts of the subscriber billing group[, and in that];

wherein a telecommunication server is connected to the subscriber database, [(2-2) through which server] the master subscriber [(MS1) establishes a connection] connecting through [said] the telecommunication network [in order] to the telecommunication server to carry out [said facilities] the predetermined procedures in the billing database [(10)].

8. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7, **characterized** in that wherein the master subscriber [(MS1)] has [the right] access rights to [access said] the billing database through [said] the telecommunication network.

9. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7 [or 8], **characterized** in that said facilities comprise a balance transfer] wherein the predetermined procedures include transferring balances between the billing accounts within [said] each billing group.

10. (Amended) A system as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 9, **characterized** in that said] claim 7, wherein each billing account has a limited balance, and [said facilities comprise] the predetermined procedures include changing the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

11. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 10, [**characterized** in that said] wherein the billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

12. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 11, [**characterized** in that] wherein the credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

13. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 12, **characterized** in that] claim 7, wherein the master subscriber [(MS1) has access to said] accesses the telecommunication service by making a facility call to a predetermined service number.

14. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in claim 13, [**characterized** in that said] wherein the telecommunication server [is] includes an automatic answering apparatus.

15. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 12, **characterized** in that said] claim 7, wherein the telecommunication server is a World Wide Web (WWW) server.

16. (*Amended*) A system as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 12, **characterized** in that said] claim 7, wherein the telecommunication server is a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) server.

[illegible]